

## **Syllabus for the Course “Medical Response to Bio/Chem Warfare”**

by

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The course is based on two satellite broadcasts, each of which took place over 12 hours during fall 2000, presented respectively by the United States Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) and United States Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense (USAMRICD). The first broadcast is called "Biological Warfare and Terrorism: The Military and Public Health Response," while the second is “Medical Response to Chemical Warfare and Terrorism.” The original broadcasts were “interactive”: i.e., those who viewed it at distant sites could phone or fax questions in real time to the moderator and speakers. However, due to budgetary constraints, the Department of Defense will not present these broadcasts in 2001. This being the case, the videotaped broadcasts from 2000 will serve as the basis the present course. The instructor will answer questions and in general guide proceedings.

This first broadcast informs and educates health care professionals and security experts about the proper medical response in the event of an intentional biological agent release. World-renowned experts from USAMRIID, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other organizations present the program. At the end of this program students are expected to:

- Know the proper medical response in the event on an intentional biological agent release.
- Know the characteristics and actions of major biological threat agents.
- Be familiar with the Department of Defense’s anthrax vaccine immunization program.
- Have an understanding of how various biological warfare and terrorism scenarios may be used to manage biological warfare and terrorist events.
- Be able to evaluate the public health and medical responses to biological terrorism.

The second broadcast focuses on topics such as chemical agents and the proper medical responses in the event of intentional or accidental chemical agent exposure, battlefield management, decontamination of casualties, and personal protective equipment. Discussions on antiterrorism will be integrated throughout the program. The broadcasts features discussions with world-renowned scientists, researchers, clinicians and counterterrorism experts. At the end of this program students are expected to:

- Know the four major chemical agent classes and the key effects of each on the human organism.
- Be able to identify the key elements medical management for each of the four major chemical agent classes.
- Be able to identify cutting edge diagnostics and therapeutics for vesicants and nerve agents.
- Be able to identify and describe each of the three tiers of response to a disaster.

While the course is, by its nature, rather technical, it is not overly so. MIIS students who partook in the 2000 broadcasts had no trouble following proceedings or passing the tests administered on-line after each broadcast. In addition, the instructor of the present course will be available to answer any questions that students may have.

Course schedule: The introductory meeting for the course will be held at 1 PM on Thursday, September 6. At that time, the class as a whole will decide on the times and dates when the video tapes of the satellite broadcasts will be shown. This could be done on, for example, weekend days, evenings, or whatever fits best.

Required course book: *Medical Aspects of Chemical and Biological Warfare*, which can be downloaded from <http://www.nbc-med.org/SiteContent/HomePage/WhatsNew/MedAspects/contents.html>  
Other more specific course material will be supplied by the instructor.

Grading: This is a pass/fail course. A pass will be given after the student successfully completes two multiple choice tests; one for each broadcast.